



# NORTH EAST TRANSPORTATION Co., Inc.

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CTTransit Waterbury Bus Service

## **S.B. No. 478 - An Act Concerning an Expansion of Bus Service In Waterbury**

North East Transportation is the bus service provider for the CTTransit Waterbury Division. The Company provides approximately 9200 weekday trips in the greater Waterbury area.

North East has received numerous requests from passengers and the business community over the past few years for bus service over Lakewood Road. In response to these requests, the Company reviewed the possibility of a new route and the link it would provide between the heavily utilized North Main Street and Wolcott Road buses. North East submitted a proposal with an approximate annual operating cost of \$130,000 to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Office of Transit and Ridesharing. The request has been delayed since 2011 due to old ridership data, a pending new bus route study, and available funding. Ridership data has since been updated by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments in 2013 and a complete bus route study is currently underway by an independent consultant.

The outbound route would not only serve the entire length of Lakewood Road, but also assist the Wolcott Road bus that enters the Naugatuck Valley Shopping Center, (Walmart, Stop & Shop, etc.), and the North Main Street buses by providing on-site service to the Waterbury Plaza, (Stop & Shop, Target, etc.). These routes are heavily utilized and have presented passenger seating capacity and schedule maintenance issues. With the addition of the Lakewood Road route, service to Wolcott Road would now be provided every half-hour instead of hourly.

The inbound route would accommodate our elderly and low income passengers by servicing the Bergin Apartments and the Waterbury Housing Authority. By traveling the entire length of Lakewood Road the bus can also provide on-site service to the Shop Rite Plaza. When Shop Rite relocated to their present location a few years ago, their request for on-site bus service was originally declined due to time restraints and traffic volume on our Wolcott Street bus route.

It is the Company's position that this route has the potential to generate new riders, as well as alleviate the ridership and scheduling pressures on the adjoining routes that operate near Lakewood Road. Additionally, our passengers can now safely board and alight the bus without having to cross busy intersections with four lanes of traffic.

**Impact on ADA Complimentary Paratransit Service:**

There is no ADA impact regarding the new service area. Lakewood Road is currently covered by routes 15/16 and 22 on both ends with respect to the ¼ mile radius under ADA Guidelines.

**Impact on Title VI:**

This proposal would result with a positive effect on Title VI. This new service will provide access to employment and shopping destinations, and provide improved passenger amenities by relieving overcrowding on two of our busiest routes, North Main and Wolcott Streets.

I sincerely ask that you please provide funding for this additional route for the CTTransit Waterbury bus system.

Thank you

Dated: February 11, 2015